

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is [REDACTED] I have never had a criminal record, I have never been unemployed and for the past 11 years I have employed 6-8 people.

All my staff and myself are qualified and licensed in the business of tattooing or tattoo removal.

I have received many awards for my contributions to the industry since I commenced tattooing 28 years ago. I personally helped write the original tattoo licencing laws in Qld with the officers from Qld Health. I studied overseas with the FBI and numerous tattoo associations around the world in cross contamination and infection control. My art has won awards all around the world and I have tattooed such icons as the Brisbane Broncos Premiers team, the Arch Bishop of Brisbane, many police officers, government workers, TV and radio personalities, movies stars and musicians.

As of October 2013 I awoke to the news that the government had deemed me a criminal because I am a member of a Motorcycle Club. This news devastated me and my family as every day on the news and in the paper we were being called maggots, scum of the earth, drug dealers, paedophiles and many more unsavoury names by political leaders. Our children who attend a very upstanding Christian college had to go to school everyday and explain themselves and defend their lives to their teachers and peers.

As a result of these laws, I was told that I was not going to be able to stay in my business because I was now classed as an unfit person. At present I am awaiting legal advice as to why I am unfit, but meanwhile I am witnessing people with serious criminal convictions being granted licences and being able to work in the industry that I helped create.

If I am not granted a licence I will no longer be able to employ 7 people and my hopes and dreams of building this successful business to hand down to my children, who are both talented and aspiring artists. My business hinges on my reputation and without my involvement it would be greatly diminished and holds a lot less value.

The laws also have affected my friendships some of which have been for 40 years with members of my Motorcycle Club. I have missed several funerals of dear long time friends, weddings, church gatherings, family get-togethers, and school functions all because of the association laws.

We used to take such pride in being able to help those less fortunate or those suffering serious illness. But this has become too dangerous for us, as my fear of doing a min of 6 months jail is an incredible deterrent.

I feel that mine and many others mental health is deteriorating every week as we used to use the club runs and get-togethers as a way of counselling each other and de-stressing, as a lot of other sporting and social clubs can do quite freely.

I feel extremely anxious every time I am in public with my wife and children as my wife has been told that she is an associate/participant and to me that means that my children are also associates and so therefore if we are to bump into anyone in a public place, including members or associates of other clubs (we are expected to know every single person and associate of every club) we are at risk of minimum 6 months jail in Solitary Confinement and refusal of Bail, all for simply going about our daily activities as a family.

I feel that the suite of laws that were introduced in 2013 have had no positive impact anywhere in the community and should be reviewed with the view of equal laws for all.

Yours truly,  
[REDACTED]